



Department of Children and Family Services  
**Kinship Support Division**  
Providing Assistance and Support to Relative Caregivers  
Volume II, Issue 2, February 2012

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH: Go confidently in the direction of your dreams! Live the life you've imagined. As you simply your life, the laws of the universe will be simpler. –Henry David Thoreau**

**KINSHIP STAFF IN ACTION:**

Hats off to the Kinship Staff who are piloting special projects in the Compton and Pomona Regional Offices adding extra support to Relative Caregivers. Kinship especially expresses gratitude to Kinship Staff involved in these projects including Beverly Miller, Toni Watson, Margarita Perez, Diana Alcantara, and Ryane Ware. Other Kinship Staff superstars deserving of recognition this month are: Elizabeth Harris for her exceptional work with a caregiver in the midst of being evicted from her home; Kinship Support Group Leaders, Barbara Barabino, Charles Brown, Cecilia Chang, Heidi Yeh, Viktor Cervantes, and Elizabeth Harris, for their dedicated help with the support groups. Last but not least, Kinship loves hearing from caregivers and CSWs when our staff has done a great job. Kinship salutes our own Margarita Perez for her exceptional work with a relative caregiver. A letter was received from the caregiver calling Ms. Perez, "A Jewel", and going over and beyond in assisting her with resources and finding the answers that she needed. This is us... DCFS KINSHIP. We are here to serve you. Have a great month.



**IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME: KINSHIP'S RESOURCE OF THE MONTH:**

***Southwestern Law School, Children's Rights Clinic:*** 3050 Wilshire Blvd. LA, CA 90010-1106. (213) 738-6621. The clinic provides representation to low-income children in the areas of school discipline, special education, and other education related issues. The clinic is staffed by law students who represent clients under close supervision of their law professor.

**EVENTS:**

***Thursday, February 9, 2012***, Kinship Support Division will be hosting an informational topic / discussion on: ***Trauma and Suicide Prevention in Children and Teens***. The presenters are mental health clinicians with the Department of Mental Health.

They will be here to educate as well as offer guidance with your particular concerns. Time: 5:15-7pm, Location: DCFS Kinship South Office, 9834 Norwalk Blvd. Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670. Call (562) 777-1753 to reserve your spot. Space is limited. (Care for your children and activities for them will be provided during the meeting. Light snack will be provided.) ***CALLING ALL TEENS: Please join us for snacks and discussion while the adults are in the meeting. We want to hear from YOU about what you would like in a Kinship Teen Group!***

***Tuesday, February 14, 2012***, Kinship Resource Center South ***Open House***. Drop in to our center any time from 8:30am to 4:30pm and see our center, meet staff and obtain resources in your area. 9834 Norwalk Blvd. Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670.

**SAVE THE DATE:**

***Thursday, March 8, 2012***, Kinship Support Division will be hosting an informational topic / discussion on: ***Independent Living Program for DCFS Children***. Time: 5:15-7pm. Location: DCFS Kinship South Office, 9834 Norwalk Blvd. Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670. Call (562) 777-1753 to reserve your spot. Space is limited. (Care for your children and a group for your teens will be provided during the meeting.)

**KINSHIP CONFERENCE COMING ...**

The Kinship Division is in the planning stage of a Kinship Conference, and requests your suggestions for topics. Please e-mail any suggestions to: [scoggm@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:scoggm@dcfs.lacounty.gov)

**KINSHIP SUPPORT GROUPS:**

Kinship has numerous support groups running throughout LA County. Please visit our website at: <http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/> (click on Kinship at the far left of the page) for the most up-to date times and dates of support groups.



**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**